F-35: Chemical Warfare on Vermonters

- **Crash Rate**: The Class A mishap (crash) rate for the F-16 has been 1.4 per 100,000 flight hours. The Air Force anticipates a rate of 5.3 for the F-35, more than 3 times higher.

- Crash rate decreases with flight hours. The F-16 had a million when it arrived in Burlington in 1986. The F-35A will fewer than 100,000.

- **Consequences**: Whereas the F-16 body is made of aluminum, the body of the F-35 includes 12,000 pounds of combustible military carbon composite materials with a combustible stealth coating.

- Upon a crash, when the F-35 body and stealth coating burn in the inferno of thousands of gallons of jet fuel before firefighters arrive, a Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division report states that highly toxic, mutagenic, and carcinogenic chemicals, particles, and fibers are released.

- A report issued by the Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, states that, unlike the F-16, the F-35 should be included in "the high-risk category due to the high percentage or high quantity of composite materials."

- The consequence of a crash depend on how many people in the impact location and the number exposed to toxic emissions over a wider area.

- In view of the catastrophic consequences of an F-35 crash, an Air Force report suggests "anticipating and preventing" such an event. Preventing means not basing the F-35 in the middle of 124,000 families within 5 miles of the airport.

- The combination of high crash rate with high crash consequences contradicts the Vermont Air National Guard Mission "to protect the citizens of Vermont."

- The crash of an F-35 into a heavily populated neighborhood is foreseeable. If based here, it is a catastrophe waiting to happen. The Burlington Board of Health should investigate and use its full authority.